

Sea Ice Forms

New: small, thin, newly formed, dinner plate-sized pieces

Brash: Broken pieces less than 2 m (6 ft) across

Pancake: Rounded floes 30 cm - 3 m (1 - 10 ft) across with ridged rims

Ice Cake: Level piece 3 - 20 m (6 - 65 ft) across

Small Floe: Level piece 20 - 100 m (65 - 328 ft) across

Medium Floe: Level, continuous piece 100 -500 m (328 - 1640 ft) across

Big Floe: Level, continuous piece 500 m - 2 km (1/3 - 1 mi) across

Vast Floe: Level, continuous piece 2 - 10 km (1 - 6 mi) across

Giant Floe: Level, continuous piece greater than 10 km (6 mi) across

Belt: A linear accumulation of sea ice from 1 km to over 100 km (0.6 - 60 mi) wide

Strip: A linear accumulation of sea ice less than 1 km (0.6 mi) wide

Beach Ice or Stamukhas: Irregular, sediment-laden blocks that are grounded on tidelands, repeatedly submerged, and floated free by spring tides

Fast Ice: Ice formed and remaining attached to shore

Useful Size-Reference Objects

Brash: less than 2 m (6 ft) across

6 ft



Growler: less than 5 m (16 ft)

16 ft

Pancake: 30 cm - 3 m (1 - 10 ft)



Bergy Bit: 5 - 15 m (17 - 50 ft)

32 ft

Ice Cake: 3 - 20 m (6 - 65 ft) across



Small Berg: 15 - 60 m (50 - 200 ft)

200 ft

Small Floe: 20 - 100 m (65 - 328 ft)



Medium Berg: 61 - 122 m (201 - 400 ft)

300 ft

Large Berg: 123 - 213 m (401 - 670 ft)



Medium Floe:

100 - 500 m (328 - 1640 ft)

Very Large Berg:

greater than 213 m (670 ft)

Big Floe:

500 m - 2 km (1/3 - 1 mi)

710 ft

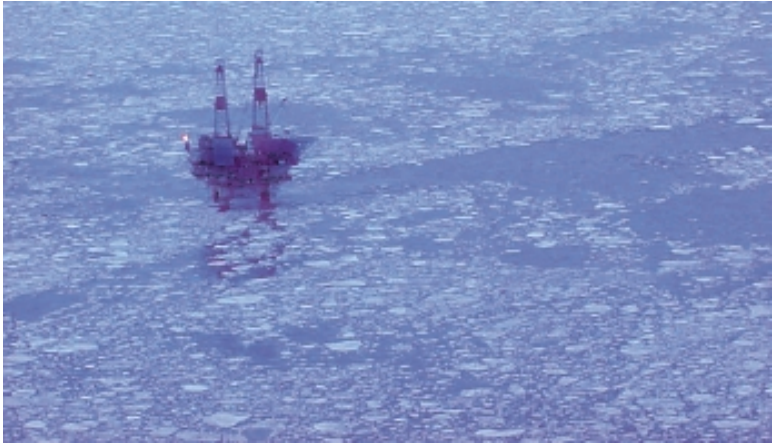


Sea Ice Forms

Brash: Broken piece less than 2 m (6 ft) across
(Homer, Alaska)



Pancake Ice: Circular floes 30 cm - 3 m (1 - 6 feet) across and up to 10 cm (4 inches) thick with raised rims



Ice Cake: Relatively level piece less than 20 m (65 ft) across (altitude 500 feet, Cook Inlet, Alaska)



Small Floe: Continuous level piece 20 - 100 m (65 - 328 ft) across (altitude 500 ft, Anchorage, Alaska)

Sea Ice Forms



Medium Floe: Continuous flat piece 100 - 500 m (328 - 1640 ft) across (altitude 800 ft, Cook Inlet, Alaska)



Big Floe: Continuous flat piece 500 m - 2 km (1/3 - 1 mi) across (altitude 500 - 600 ft, Arctic Ocean)



Belt: A linear accumulation of sea ice from 1 km to over 100 km (0.6 - 60 mi) wide



Strip: A linear accumulation of sea ice less than 1 km (0.6 mi) wide (altitude 800 ft, Cook Inlet, Alaska)

Sea Ice Forms



Beach Ice, or Stamukhas: Thick, irregular, sediment-laden *pieces*, which have been grounded on tidelands, repeatedly submerged, and floated free by spring tides (grounded beach ice, Cook Inlet, Alaska)



Fast Ice: Ice formed and remaining attached to shore (upper Cook Inlet, Alaska)